

Message Text

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P R 032139Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGE: PERFORMING ARTS (MODERN
DANCE)

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5448, (B) STATE 89395, (C) STATE 71594,
(D) 76 STATE 289599

1. SUPAGIN REJECTION OF TAYLOR IS NOT ONLY DISAPPOINTING
AS INDIVIDUAL PAG CASE, BUT ALSO RAISES FUNDAMENTAL
QUESTIONS OF BALANCE AND PROCEDURES IN PAG EXCHANGE.
MODERN DANCE IS A MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS CATEGORY AND
DEPARTMENT FEELS STRONGLY THAT IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN
EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

2. US HAS SUGGESTED THREE GROUPS FOR SOVIET REVIEW:
MURRAY LEWIS, NIKOLAIS AND PAUL TAYLOR. SUPAGIN'S
REJECTION OF NIKOLAIS (REF A) IS DISINGENUOUS AT BEST AND
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EMBASSY'S COUNTER SUGGESTION WAS WELL PUT TO UNMASK HIS
EXPLANATION. RE PAUL TAYLOR REVIEW, UNFORTUNATE COINCI-
DENCE OF TAYLOR'S NON-APPEARANCE AND SUPAGIN'S ILLNESS
DOES NOT CHANGE FACT THAT SUPAGIN APPLIED FOR VISA TO
REVIEW PAG'S, THEN CONCENTRATED HIS VISIT ON GOSKONSERT
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES TO SEND SOVIET PAG'S HERE. IMPOR-

TANT YELISEYEV VISITS OF AUGUST AND NOVEMBER 1976 ALSO
FAILED TO GIVE DUE ATTENTION TO US PAG REVIEWS. DYUZHEV
ALSO WAS UNABLE TO REVIEW PAG'S DURING OCTOBER 1976 VISIT.

3. IN SUM, US EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY MODERN DANCE GROUP
ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED BY LATTER'S
FOOT-DRAGGING. THIS AGAINST BACKGROUND OF FLEXIBILITY
SOVIETS ENJOY IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO SEND THE (HARD
CURRENCY EARNING) PAG'S TO THE US.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH GOSKONSERT AND MINCULT TO
EXPRESS DEPT'S SERIOUS CONCERN THAT DANCE GROUP SELECTION
REMAINS UNRESOLVED DESPITE OUR MULTIPLE PROPOSALS IN
RECENT MONTHS. WE REQUEST THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF THIS
GENRE BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM IN 1977 . WE HAVE
PROPOSED THREE BEST US GROUPS AND SOVIETS SHOULD HAVE
ADEQUATE INFORMATION TO SELECT ONE FOR APPROVAL IN
PRINCIPLE. IF THEY CANNOT DO SO IN NEAR FUTURE, DEPT.
WILL HAVE TO RECONSIDER EXISTING BALANCE AND LOOK CARE-
FULLY AT MIX AND FLOW OF SOVIET PAG'S TO US IN LIGHT OF
CONTINUING ABSENCE OF A MAJOR US GENRE FROM THE EXCHANGE
PROGRAM.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT TAYLOR IS LIKELY TO BE SOVIET PREFER-
ENCE AND WE REQUEST ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE WITH REVIEWS
DURING TAYLOR PERFORMANCE IN NEW YORK, MAY 25-JUNE 5,
1977, TO RESOLVE DETAILS.
VANCE

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